

“...is that the



water board?...”

“Alan’s writing is very neat, but he is very slow,” said the teacher when I was 7 years old. 70 years later nothing has changed. I did speed up in the decades in between but for some reason have now returned to neat and slow.

In the meantime a lot of water has gone under the bridge, and I thought I would capture, neatly and slowly, how water, as well as keeping me alive, has influenced my life. Cold water, hot water, and no water.

As well as my career journey and the many water industry changes along the way, I rehearse where we are today and the need for significant change to meet the challenges of tomorrow. A new industry model. And quickly.

This watery tale is the story of a Derbyshire lad, born into post war poverty, raised in a working-class community, who failed his 11 plus, left school at 15, no qualifications, first paid job £200 per year, and went on to work in America, the Caribbean, Europe, including three very different English water companies.

From talking to local primary schools about Willie the Waterman, Sam the Sewageman, and Ronnie the Riverman, to presentations to US Congress on Capitol Hill, Washington DC.

From junior clerk to water company director. Meeting and greeting politicians, royalty, and setting up his own UK and international business working on many continents and with many nationalities across the world.

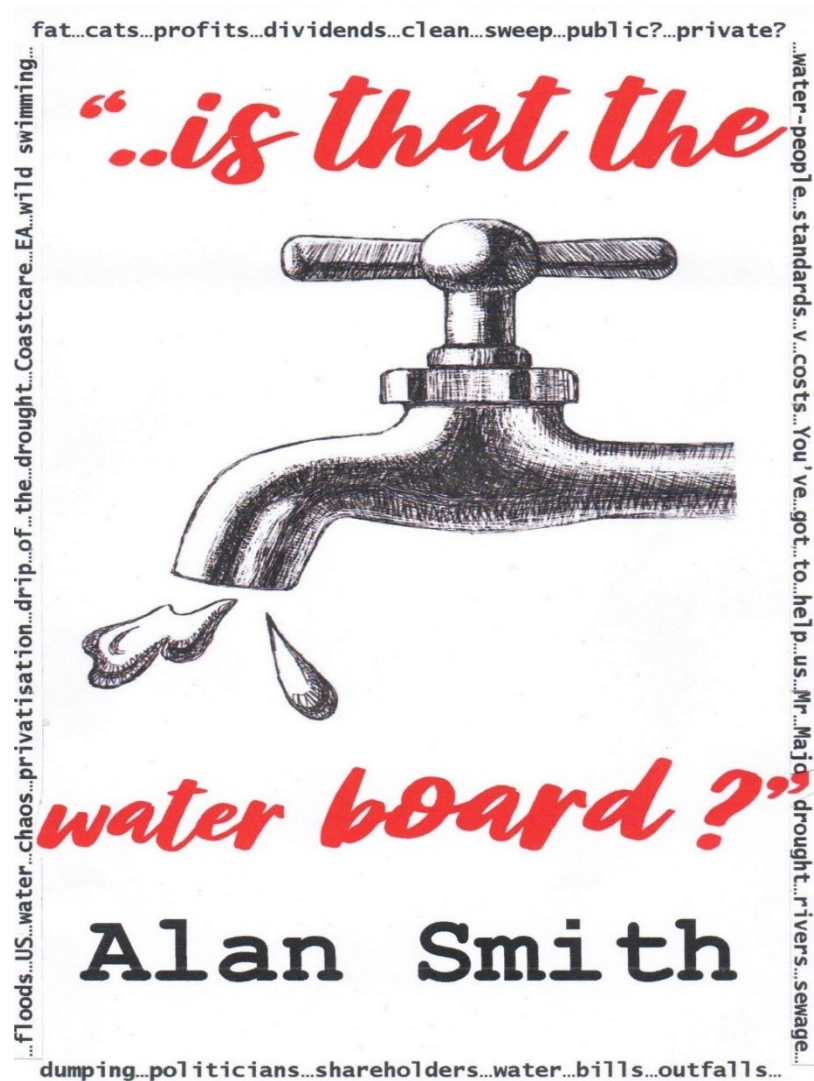
Incidents and anecdotes, serious lessons in the art of simple communications, reputations won and lost, standards versus costs, and much more.

Most importantly working with the many unsung heroes who provide the most precious commodity on earth – safe clean drinking water.

Along the way dispensing one of the rarest attributes known to man, common sense. An increasingly vanishing commodity in a world of would-be smart arses.

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The career story of a 15-year-old Derbyshire lad who went from junior clerk, to Director, to business owner working in the UK and across the World.



60 years working in the public and private sector... arguing with politicians...managing press and media... bringing common sense to boardrooms...and applauding the dedication of 50,000 water industry employees...

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